

June 15, 2004

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff,

I am writing to express support for the Supplemental Audio Channel that will be available when broadcasting in digital becomes widespread.

As the general manager of a non-commercial community radio station, I can say without hesitation that having a second program channel would allow my station to better serve our local community. WERU has a sixteen-year history of developing and broadcasting locally produced programming, both cultural and news/public affairs. We recently received a "Social Landscape Artist" award from a distinguished Maine foundation for our positive impact on the local community. Our programming and outreach are valued and recognized community-building tools.

In the past four years we have made a concerted effort to train more community volunteers for news/public affairs production, and to a large extent we have been successful. The challenge now is to find room in our broadcast schedule for new informational programming as it is developed. The second program channel would provide the space we need to provide more local news and public affairs programming to serve the community.

Therefore, I encourage you to authorize the technology (that NPR has tested extensively) for the Supplemental Audio Channel. Our community, and many other counties and municipalities across the country served by public and community stations, will benefit greatly by increased opportunities for quality local listening and production.

Thank you,

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